

BILL: F2016-SR1

TITLE: BLACK LIVES MATTER RESOLUTION

SPONSOR: David Pesqueira, Co-chair of the Community Council
Aliza Cohen, Senior Senator
Hannah Pustejovsky, Junior Senator

DATE: October 23, 2016

Whereas the Black Student Union of Middlebury College (BSU) supports the raising of a Black Lives Matter flag on campus (one at the Athletic Center) and a Black Lives Matter banner at Mead Chapel, in support and solidarity with fellow Black people in the United States,

Whereas Middlebury is a primarily white institution and being a Black student in the community can often be exemplified as exhausting in the constant effort to prove one's self on this campus, and as discomfiting and unsafe both socially and academically on this campus,

Whereas the members of Student Government Association (SGA) would like to be involved in campus conversation and support for this movement,

Whereas the members of SGA recognized the weight of the recommendations included in this Resolution and emphasize the importance of open dialogue prior to any decision; as such, this Resolution is not intended as a list of demands to the Administration, but rather recommendations for action

Therefore, be it resolved...

The SGA supports the endeavors of the Black Lives Matter movement and the BSU.

That, the SGA and the BSU recommend Middlebury College take one of the following actions ranked in order of preference:

- (a) hang a Black Lives Matter **flag** on the existing pole at the **Athletic Center** (not on the same pole as the American Flag) until the end of the Fall Semester of 2016, and a Black Lives Matter **banner** in front of **Mead Chapel** (facing Old Chapel) until the end of the Fall Semester of 2016; or
- (b) hang a **banner** on **McCullough** outside of Wilson Hall until the end of the Fall Semester of 2016, and hang as a **flag** at the **Athletic Center** until the end of the Fall Semester of 2016; or
- (c) hang a **banner on McCullough** outside of Wilson Hall until the end of the Fall Semester of 2016, and **Old Chapel** (facing Mead Chapel) until the end of the Fall Semester of 2016.

Places that would not be preferential would be non-academic buildings (i.e. dorms, dining halls, etc.) and buildings of little visibility.

That, in addition to supporting the Black Lives Matter by hanging a flag and banner on campus: The SGA and the BSU recommend that President Laurie Patton meet with representatives from the BSU to discuss an e-mail statement supporting and endorsing the Black Lives Matter movement to be sent out the day of, but shortly after, the suspension of the Black Lives Matter flag and banner.

That, regardless of the administrative decision, the SGA and the BSU recommend the continued effort of the Middlebury administration to consciously observe the deficit of black representation both within the student body and the faculty makeup, such that prompts an effort to resolve this issue;

- (a) In acknowledging ongoing efforts, the SGA and the BSU recommend: a careful look at where students are being recruited; how socioeconomic diversity impacts matriculation; investigating why students of color ultimately decide not to attend Middlebury College; investigating retention rates of students of color
- (b) The SGA and the BSU additionally recommend: challenging the notion that only “trainings” can facilitate understanding amongst faculty members; and acknowledging the C3 program’s efforts at Middlebury College and exploring similar options for faculty diversity.

That, regardless of the administrative decision, the SGA and the BSU recommends the creation of a standard procedure by which students can express their responses to "campus-related issues" (i.e. a go/link that invites students to express themselves to different campus-related issues).

That, if the Senior Leadership Group (SLG) decides not in favor of this resolution, to provide an explanation of their decision in an e-mail to the SGA and the BSU first, then the student body as a whole.

That, if the SLG and the Office of the President decide to implement these recommendations, the BSU would like to work with the SLG and all relevant parties to ensure that the message is clear.

Respectfully submitted,
The Black Student Union of Middlebury College;
Clark Lewis, Treasurer of the Black Student Union;
Nia Robinson, Co-President of the Black Student Union;
David Pesqueira, Co-chair of the Community Council;
Aliza Cohen, Senior Senator;
Hannah Pustejovsky, Junior Senator

Vote Count

In favor: President Toy, Co-chair Pesqueira, Speaker Lantigua, Senator Cohen, Senator Waddell, Senator Duran, Senator Schoel, Senator Goldfield, Senator Hayes, Senator Ou, Senator Wright, Senator Andrews, Senator McCormick, Senator McCarthy

Opposed: *None*

Abstained: Senator Boyle (proxy)

Absent: Senator Pustejovsky, Senator Aaron (proxy)

F2016-SR1 passes 14-0-1